

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 19-45 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-14, and 18 are rejected.

Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, and 17 are objected to.

Claims 8 and 19-42 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 14, and 16-18 have been cancelled.

Claims 43-45 have been added.

Claim 9 has been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

### **Rejection of Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-14, and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-14, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,552,531 to Fey et al. (hereafter "Fey '531"). Without admitting or denying the patentability of the rejected claims over the prior art, Applicant has elected to cancel and/or amend the claims to place them in allowable form. More specifically, claims 1 and 5-7 have been cancelled; claim 9 has been amended to include the allowable matter of claim 16; claims 12 and 13 now depend on allowable claim 9; and claim 18 has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

### **Allowable Matter**

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 8 and 19-42 are allowable. Additionally, the Final Office Action indicated that claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, and

17 were objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. At this time Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments made to claim 9 which includes the limitations of dependent claim 10. Applicant believes that claims 9, 12, and 13 are in allowable form and allowance is respectfully requested. Applicant has also submitted new claims 43-45 which represent the allowed subject matter of claim 11 as well as two dependent claims which are also believed to be in allowable form. Allowance of all of the above claims is respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

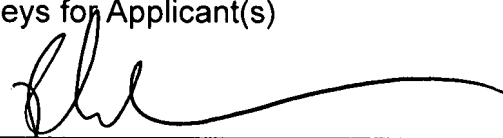
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks the claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 19-45, as amended, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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